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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: Sosin et al.

Examiner: Avery, Bridget

Serial No.: 09/919,665

Art Unit: 3618

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Title: TRANSFERABLE SKI BINDING

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

A Restriction/Election Requirement was mailed in the above-referenced case on May 14, 2002, identifying ten (10) species of the claimed invention and requiring election of a single, disclosed species. The Examiner states that currently no claims are generic. Applicants appreciate the discussion accorded by Examiner concerning these species designations. In particular, Applicants expressed concern over the number of species identified by the Examiner and pointed out that the Figures 1-2E, labelled as "Species I", were intended as, and are believed to be, a generic representation of the invention.

Applicants do not concede that any of the indicated species are in fact patentably distinct. However, to further prosecution on the merits and based on the discussion with the Examiner, **Applicants elect "Species II"** represented by Figures 3A-3C for side entry ship to dock interface. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 21, 23 and 24 are generic, and claims 2, 3, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, and 22, are readable on the elected species.

As for the non-elected claims, Applicants respectfully assert that if these claims are withdrawn and if a generic linking claim is subsequently allowed, these claims will be held as no longer withdrawn since they would be fully embraced by the allowed generic claim, as provided under 37 CFR 1.141 and described in MPEP 809.02, 02(c).

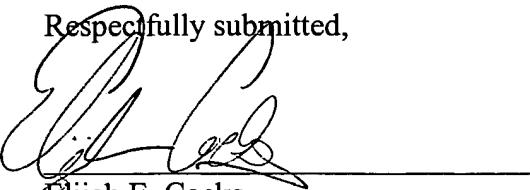
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JUN 25 2002

GROUP 3600

Please charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No.
03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: June 14, 2002

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
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